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HISTORY OF
CRISP COUNTY

Georgia
Compiled and Illustrated by

FORT EARLY CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS AMERICAN REVOLUTION

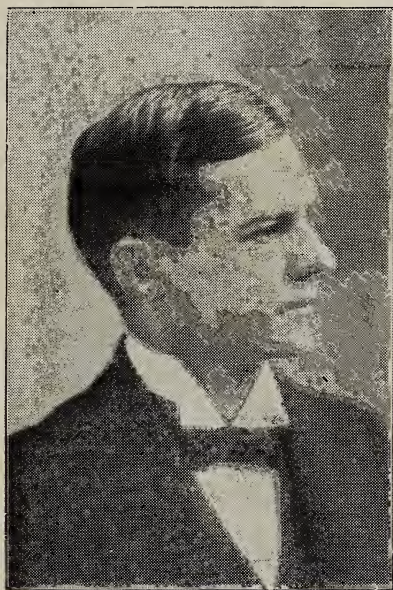


CORDELE, GEORGIA
NINETEEN SIXTEEN

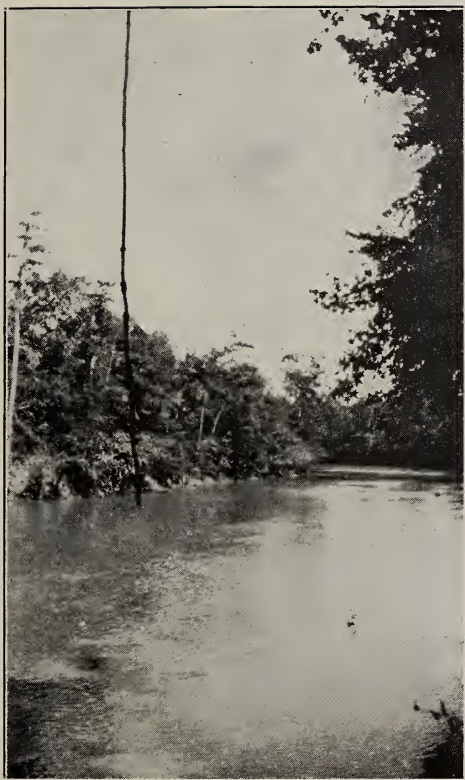
Dedicated.

To the first Regent of the Fort Early Chapter, D. A. R., Gertrude Taylor Land, Mrs. Max E. Land, Cordele, Ga., through whose timely ministrations the Chapter was organized, and through whose unwearied efforts the work herein included was carried to completion.

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Judge C. R. Crisp.



A View of Flint River from Fort Early Breastworks.

Preface.

The Sites and Monuments Committee of the Fort Early Chapter, D. A. R., composed of the following ladies: Mesdames T. J. Durrett, B. H. Palmer, R. R. Harris and Miss Frances Carswell, began their work of research and investigation in the early spring of 1915, soon after appointment and following the decision of the Chapter to have a county history of Crisp compiled. In recognition of the true spirit of the D. A. R., and at the urgent request of the Committee, a number of Daughters of the local Chapter responded with tests of investigation and "write-ups" of towns, points of interest, school sites, etc., etc.

Together we delved into court house records, here in the county seat, Cordele; we searched old newspaper records; we photographed the oldest tombstones in the oldest church yards; we located and kodaked old Fort Early; we traveled through sunshine and rain along the Blackshear road, locating and photographing churches, school houses, and other sites of interest in the county.

We secured from Mr. Raines the gift of the plot of ground including old Fort Early and breastworks and the deeds to same property are in the keeping of the Chapter.

Those who rendered substantial assistance are: Mrs. Max Land, Mrs. T. J. Durrett, Mrs. B. H. Palmer, Miss Frances Carswell, Mrs. R. R. Harris, Miss Keene Martin, Mrs. J. W. Bivins, Mrs. Kate H. Holmes, Mrs. E. M. Espey, Miss Harriet Carswell, Mrs. Steven Little, Mrs. Crum, Mrs. Monroe Hunt, Mrs. George White, and others.

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CRISP COUNTY.

As a result of the natural and commercial advantages of this immediate section, Crisp County was formed from the southern territory of Dooly County in 1905. The splendid location, rich soil, railroad facilities, progressive people, manufacturing interests, etc., demanded a distinct county government.

Dooly County was created by an act of the legislature May 15, 1821, from lands acquired from the Creek Indians under the first treaty of Indian Springs, in the same year. It was named for Col. John Dooly, who was murdered by the Tories in 1780. Vienna was made the county seat.

Cordele, in the southern part of Dooly, was chartered in 1888, with a population of 300. In twelve years time her population was about twenty times as great. With such a rapid growth the people of Cordele and southern Dooly began to realize the necessity of establishing a new county with Cordele for its county seat. In the year 1905 a general committee, with headquarters at Cordele, was selected to draw up a bill providing for the creation of a new county, and put it before the next legislature. This committee consisted of the following men: W. C. Hamilton, S. W. Coney, B. P. O'Neil, C. C. Greer, M. T. Lanier, R. C. Harris, J. J. Wheeler, J. S. Pate, C. C. Cutts, J. A. Ward, J. W. Bivins, G. M. Bulloch, S. C. Weisiger, W. E. Edwards, S. A. Royal, M. J. Mikel, Mark Rainey, T. E. Gleaton, Z. Hardin, James Ray, J. R. Felder, Willis Johnson, T. S. Roberts.

On August 19, 1905, Governor Terrell signed the bill making the southern part of Dooly a new county, to be called Crisp, in honor of the late Charles F. Crisp. Said county was organized November 22, 1905. Crisp County court house and jail were built in 1906-7-8, at a cost of \$80,000. Her first term of court met December, 1905, with Judge Z. A. Littlejohn presiding. The first Grand Jury impanelled was composed of the following men: A. Wells, B. B. Pound, J. T. Musselwhite, S. C. Weisiger, J. R. Williams, J. O. McKinney, H. W. Wheeler,

W. H. Williams, C. C. Cutts, J. W. Cannon, J. O. James, J. M. Cox, J. C. Tracy, J. J. Wheeler, E. C. Youngblood, W. F. Markert, W. R. Harris, T. J. Bennett, J. B. Adkins, W. L. Robuck, G. L. Dekle, J. R. McKinney, J. S. Pate.

Her first county officers were: S. W. Coney, Ordinary; J. A. Littlejohn, Clerk; G. W. Sheppard, Sheriff; J. M. Davis, Tax Receiver; John C. Fenn, Tax Collector; B. N. Williams, Treasurer.

The contracting parties whose names appear in the first marriage license issued in Crisp were Miss Mamie Elder and Mr. Charles Killen.

Crisp County contains an area of 277 square miles, and now has a population of about 18,750, and the taxable property approximates \$8,000,000. It is rich in fertile lands, pregnant with work well done, progressively liberal in all things, and, with a catholicity of action that begets the greatest good for the greatest number. All the land is good, and any crop known to the farmer can be grown here.

Crisp and Cordele are so closely representative of what each has to offer, that to speak of one is but to sound the praise of the other, the combined paean heralding a note that rarely has been touched in the building of any county or city.

County School System.

The Crisp County Public School System is one of the very best in the state. Under the able supervision of Mr. J. W. Bivins, of Cordele, the first and only county school superintendent the county has had, the teachers are paid good salaries and paid promptly. There has never been a time since the creation of the county that any teacher has had to wait a day for his or her salary, for this superintendent is never without funds sufficient to run his force. The "County Unit" system of taxation up to Cordele, supplements the state's money, together building good strong schools. Mr. Bivins has been instrumental in getting the school session lengthened from five to seven months, with the privilege of nine months session. The schools are conducted along the most advanced lines, and the buildings and equipment are adequate.



Cedar Creek.



Chas. F. Crisp.

Crisp.

Charles Frederick Crisp was born in Sheffield, England, January 29, 1845, of actor parents, who were touring the British Isles. His parents were Americans and returned to America the same year that Charles Frederick was born.

He spent his boyhood in Georgia between Macon and Savannah, but also attended school in Virginia. The outbreak of the war between the States ended his school life as he entered as a private in Company K of the 10th Virginia regiment. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. At the close of the war he joined his parents at Ellaville, Ga., where he began the study of law. Later he moved to Americus to practice his profession, and here he established his permanent home.

In 1882 he entered the race for Congress. Six times in succession he was re-elected without serious opposition. He wrested the gavel from Speaker Reed and his tilts with Mr. Reed have become historic.

His address on taking the gavel was a model of brevity and touching in simplicity: Viz., "Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: For the great honor you have conferred upon me I return you heartfelt thanks.

"I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the office of speaker with courtesy, with firmness and with absolute impartiality. Let us unite in the hope that our labors here may result in the advancement of the prosperity, the honor, and the glory of our beloved country."

The words "our beloved country" flowed into the speech with as sweet a cadence as ever sprang from human heart and fell from human lips. By unanimous vote the House afterwards signified that he had fulfilled his highest promise. So said Mr. Cummings in his memorial address before the House.

Gen. J. B. Gordon, whom he was to succeed in the Senate, made the following remarks concerning him in his memorial address before the Senate: "Mr. President; a character so symmetrical and complete as Mr. Crisp's deserves to be studied and emulated. Called to an unusual number of positions, he was efficient in all, and in many he excelled.

Great and lasting as are the honors he won in public ser-

vice, sincere and just as are the eulogiums pronounced by his associates in Congress, earnest and universal as are the benedictions of the people, and precious as will be this heritage to unspeakably bereaved wife and children, yet his daily acts of unselfish devotion as husband and father are to them the richest and most cherished legacy.

“The life of such a man, Mr. President, is a sermon, a psalm, an inspiration. From its opening to its close his career was one of unbroken success. Though ambitious to represent Georgia in the Senate, he turned his back on a tender to the position by the governor, at the call of duty to remain at his accepted post of duty.”

He died October 23, 1896, with the echoes of his last political victory still ringing in his ears; and the much desired seat in the Senate was soon to be obtained.

A county is fortunate in bearing the name of a man with such a glorious record. Let us hope that it too will achieve great things.

Representative Men of Crisp County.

In writing a sketch of the representative men of Crisp County it is hard to select just those who have, by their efforts in behalf of the county, stood out most prominently, because we find in reviewing the history of Crisp County that most of the citizens have contributed liberally of their time and means as occasion has called upon them. Nevertheless, there are a few who have, by their official positions or by their ability to give, contributed most largely in a public way to the development and growth of our county.

Going back to the time when what is now Crisp County was a part of the County of Dooly, we find the name of Captain S. W. Coney. Captain Coney lived and was engaged in the mercantile business at the little station in the western part of the county which bears his name—Coney, Ga. At the time of which we speak there were no railroads in this section of the country, and the little town of Coney was the metropolis of this part of the territory of the county of Dooly. Finding the need of railroads to develop this section of the county, which for the most part was a virgin forest, Captain Coney



Old Fort Early Site.



Bridge Over Swift Creek.

with others incorporated the Americus, Preston & Lumkin Railroad, which afterwards became the Savannah, Americus & Montgomery Railroad. Captain Coney was vice-president of the road, and by his efforts the road was put through Dooly County. When this part of the county sought to be cut off from the upper part of the county under the name of Crisp County, it was Captain Coney who suggested that the county be named Crisp for the late Speaker Charles F. Crisp. When the county was finally made the people of our county wanted an Ordinary to assume the responsible duties of that office; it was Captain Coney who was first thought of. He was duly elected and held that office, being the first and only Ordinary of Crisp County, till the time of his death, January 19, 1916.

The name of Hiram Williams, Sr., also is dear to the hearts of the people of this section, because of his faithful services in its interests, both in the State Senate and the House of Representatives. He was always thinking of some way by which he might elevate the people in an educational and financial way.

Mr. George W. Sheppard, the first Sheriff of Crisp County and a member of the present Board of County Commissioners, has been very active in the interest of Crisp County. As Sheriff he was very faithful to his trust as an officer, kind but firm in the administration of the duties of his office and always tried to bring to bear upon those who had broken the law in any way a desire to become better citizens. As County Commissioner, has been very active in the building up of our public highways and strengthening the county's financial interests.

Hon. Isaiah Williams, a former State Senator and Representative in the Legislature, has done much for the upbuilding of this section. He has always stood firmly for the right, taking a firm stand against wrongs in every shape, whether it be in business, in society, or administration of the law. He has been a citizen of whom any county would be proud.

Mr. W. J. Musslewhite, the present Tax Collector of this county, is one of the most enthusiastic and hard-working for the upbuilding of his county and of all its citizens. A good citizen, a splendid officer and always willing and ready to contribute to the extent of his ability for the public good.

Perhaps one of the best known men in the county is Mr. J. W. Bivins, the efficient and honorable county school commissioner. Perhaps no man in the county contributed more to the securing of Crisp County than did Mr. Bivins. One of the prime movers in this undertaking, he spent liberally of his time, means and talents in this direction. Soon after the county was organized Mr. Bivins was elected county school commissioner, which office he has held ever since. As county school commissioner and editor of the *Cordele Sentinel*, he has wielded a big influence throughout the county for better schools, better homes and a higher type of citizenship.

Among the adopted sons of Crisp County and one who has been unselfish in the giving of time and whatever means he has had, no one has done more than Hon. W. H. Dorris, the present representative in the General Assembly of Georgia. Colonel Dorris has been very active indeed as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, as Mayor of the city, and as representative of the county in the Legislature in the well-being and betterment of the county's every interest.

When the pages of the history of Crisp County shall have been written the names of Judge E. F. Strozier, Hon. R. C. Harris, Judge U. V. Whipple, Mr. W. C. Hamilton, Col. M. M. Eakes and Col. O. T. Gower will be given a prominent place. These men, like those already mentioned, have always responded with zeal and energy to the call of duty when the interests of Crisp County were at stake.

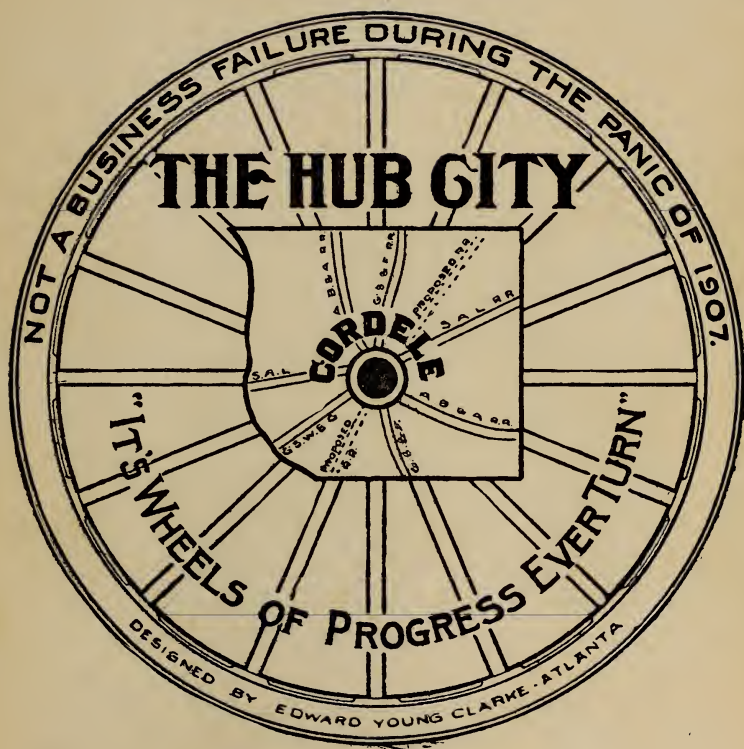
Time would fail us if we should even try to mention the names of those who have been loyal and active in their efforts to make Crisp County the Empire County of the Empire State of the South. Every citizen stands ready to respond to the call of his beloved county when she has need of his services, his time or his means.



Fort Early Cemetery.



Fort Early Church.



CORDELE, GA.

The thriving city of Cordele has been built within the past twenty-seven years, on grounds made interesting by inspiring historic associations. It is located on the hill where the executive mansion of Georgia's war governor, Joseph E. Brown, stood. Few persons know that the affairs of state were once administered in Crisp County. At that time Ex-Governor Joseph M. Brown, son of the war governor, was a small boy, who delighted in hunting and fishing in the swamps of Gum creek, that runs north of the city.

Only recently the old capital and mansion were torn down, as their architectural lines were not in harmony with the caste of prosperity and the brick and stone of the present day. The log building of war times was a veritable cottage hut, unknown to pretense, and indifferent to fate, since its place in the world was under the waste of time and lost to favor. On the old plantation of Joe Brown stands Cordele, now the "Hub City" of the wiregrass country.

Cordele was incorporated in 1888 and named for Miss Cordelia Hawkins, eldest daughter of Col. Samuel H. Hawkins, president of the Savannah, Americus & Montgomery Railroad. Miss Cordelia Hawkins is now Mrs. T. Furlow Gatewood, of Americus.

Cordele, age twenty-seven years, population 8250. Crisp County, age ten years, population 18,750. Area of city 4 square miles. Area of county 277 square miles. The National Highway from New York to Florida passes through the full length of Crisp County and Cordele.

The city has twelve wholesale houses and 225 retail business houses. It has three cotton warehouses and a cotton compress that handles over 100,000 bales annually.

Cordele has four banking institutions, four railroads: Georgia Southern & Florida, running from Macon, Ga., to Jacksonville and Palatka, Fla.; Seaboard Air Line, running



Historic Cedar Creek.



Old Joe Brown Mansion.

from Savannah, Ga., to Montgomery, Ala.; Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic, running from Brunswick, Ga., to Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala.; Georgia Southwestern & Gulf, running from Cordele, Ga., to Albany, Ga., and which is soon to be built to St. Andrews Bay, Fla. In all Cordele has twenty-six passenger trains daily, which, with her competitive freight rates, afford the most excellent transportation facilities. She has two cottonseed oil mills, and ginneries, a cotton compress, ice factory, sash, door and blind factories, variety works, four hotels, three fertilizer plants, and one of the most complete machine shops and foundries in the South; three newspapers and two bottling plants.

Educationally, religiously and commercially, Cordele is fast becoming the first city of South Georgia. She has a public free library costing \$20,000. The people are keenly appreciative of the value to the city and county of maintaining schools and churches of the highest order. The Cordele High School, with her eleven grades and her faculty of twenty-eight teachers, easily fits the boy or girl for freshman and sometimes sophomore class in the Southern colleges. She has five churches with splendid buildings, namely, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Primitive Baptist.

Cordele has an excellent sanitary sewerage system and water works, electric lights, and a well equipped fire department. It is a clean, healthful city, sanitary in every respect, with pretty paved streets and tasteful residences, new and up-to-date. She has no factions, and no petty prejudices to retard her growth. A beautiful \$100,000 court house, a \$70,000 government building and postoffice, a new and up-to-date Telephone Exchange building, all add to her citylike appearance.

There are no finer churches to be found than those located in Cordele, and the pastors are consecrated Christian gentlemen. Besides these institutions, a High School that ranks second to none in the state, Cordele is quite a city of clubs: The Symphony Club, that caters to a higher education in music and a more beautiful interpretation of the art; the Daughters of the American Revolution, who remember the dead heroes and mark their graves, and who also devote much of their time

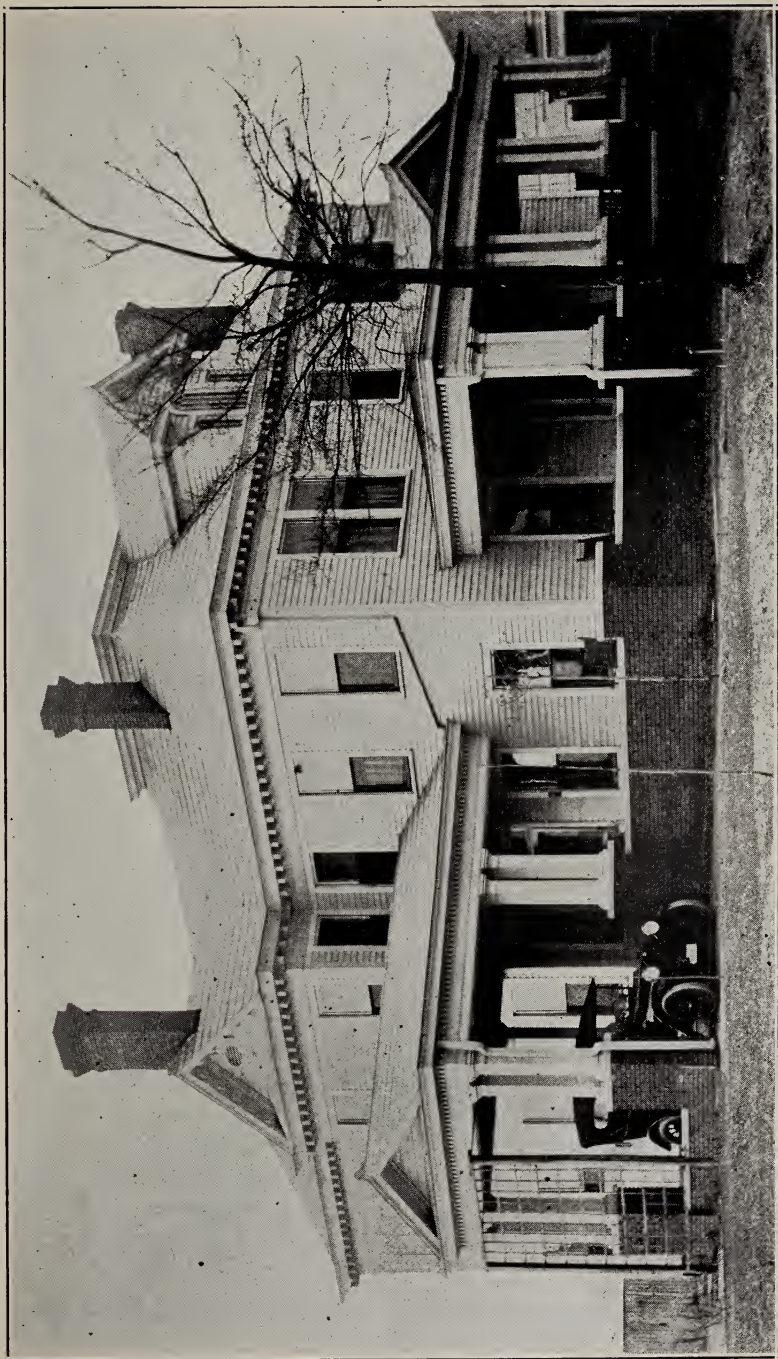
to education, scholarships, and county histories; the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who build monuments to the memory of the Confederate dead and do much historic research work; and the Thalian Club, confining her study to the drama. All of these clubs, with a number of exclusive social clubs, add much to the social life of Cordele.

This is what the Cordele Chamber of Commerce says of its own: "Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia, the Hub City of the Land of Romance and Roses; South Georgia's great distributing point and industrial center, in the richest agricultural section of America, where fields produce crops all the year round, and roses bloom continually."

The Macon Telegraph says: "Cordele! Crisp! The first, one of the youngest members of a great commonwealth, is a star of dazzling and inviting brightness; the second, the hub of an almost empiric section, than which there is none greater in all Georgia or the Southland."

Much has been said in this county history, yet none too much, of the men who took interest in the early life of Cordele and Crisp County. Now, all praise be given to those who are at present making Cordele stand out prominent on the Georgia map. Cordele's business men are energetic workers, and men of high degree of integrity, intellect, and ability. They are liberal and public spirited and always found in the front ranks of those who are fighting for the advancement of the city's best interests. Good business methods mark their advancement. Some of the men who are putting their energies into making Cordele a bigger and better city today are Messrs. B. H. Palmer, J. W. Bivins, Judge Max E. Land, Judge U. V. Whipple, W. H. McKenzie, T. J. Durrett, Judge E. F. Strozier, T. E. Jennings, J. A. Littlejohn, W. H. Dorris, D. A. R. Crum, J. Gordon Jones (Mayor), G. B. Wilkes, E. B. Mann, the Sheppards and the Williams families, D. Ed. Kennedy, F. L. Bartholomew, and among the Jewish residents, L. J. Roobin and George Miller, W. A. Webster, the Churchwells.

Some of the manufacturers of Cordele are: Tomlin-Harris Machine Co., Cordele Sash, Door & Lumber Co., Crisp County Lumber Co., Chero-Cola Bottling Co., Cordele Coca-Cola Co., Cordele Ice Co., Consolidated Marble Co., Read Phosphate Co.,



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Diffie.

Southern Cotton Oil Co., Empire Cotton Oil Co., Cordele Leather Co., Frank Teuber Carriage Works. Among the wholesale houses are Parker-Willis Co., Heard Grocery Co., People's Grocery Co., Churchwell Bros., wholesale dry goods and notions; Ryals-Baker Co., Lamb Grocery Co., Armour Packing Co., and others.

The Cordele newspapers: The Cordele Dispatch, with Max E. Land, editor and manager, is the official organ of Cordele and Crisp County. It is one of the leading papers of South Georgia. The Sentinel, published in Cordele with J. W. Bivins as editor and manager, is one of the best county papers in the state, publishing the county school news in addition to the city news. The Cordele Rambler is published by J. D. Mathews, lessee.

A national honor which came to Fort Early Chapter, D. A. R., to Cordele, and to the whole state of Georgia, was that of her own daughter, Miss Marguerite Durrett, an applicant through the D. A. R., who secured the Bristol scholarship at Washington, D. C., valued at \$1,000. This honor was competed for by a number of states, and Georgia, Cordele, and Miss Durrett, all three are to be congratulated.



Fort Early.

In the present county of Crisp, situated on the east side of Flint river, six miles below the point at which Cedar creek enters the Flint, was located in pioneer times Fort Early—a stronghold which was erected during the administration of Governor Peter Early, by General David Blackshear.

This old fort was used by this brave Indian fighter during the war of 1812 and was afterwards used by General Andrew Jackson and his army in defense against the Seminole Indians of Florida, reinforced by a band of seceding Indians from the Creeks of Georgia, known as the “Red Sticks,” who were committing atrocious crimes upon the whites, and who refused to recognize the treaty made at Fort Jackson to the whites.

According to the itinerary of General Jackson he reached Fort Early with his army on February 23, 1818, and remained there for several days.

Little is known of the character of this old fort, but it was probably a stockade fort, designed especially for Indian warfare on the border. The land on which this fort stood was the property of Mr. G. H. Raines, of Crisp County. Mr. Raines has recently deeded four acres of land, including this old historic site and the breastworks, to Fort Early Chapter, D. A. R. The Chapter has purchased a handsome granite boulder to mark the site. Unveiling exercises will be held within a few weeks.

Cedar Creek.

In the southwestern part of Crisp County, a little stretch of water, known as Cedar Creek, flows serenely on forever to “join the brimming river”—Georgia’s noble Flint. Placid though the waters of this little stream, the low murmur of its rippling flow ever brings to the ear tales of the mighty past. For it was here, January 22, 1818, that the last attack upon the whites by the Creek Indians in this section of Georgia was successfully repelled.

On the above named date Major Franklin E. Heard was

ordered by General Glascock to meet Captain Leigh, who was proceeding from Hartford (Hawkinsville) with packs of provisions for General Jackson's army, then encamped at Fort Early. Major Heard's detachment moved safely on until it reached Cedar Creek. Here the party halted, as the stream was swollen, and there was great difficulty in crossing. Then, too, the growth on the opposite side of the stream was so thick it seemed almost impervious, and a most opportune place for an attack by the Indians from ambush. Captain Leigh and a private named Samuel Loftus started to cross the stream in spite of the outstanding dangers. Major Heard protested vigorously, but to no avail. The two men went out, and just as they crossed the stream they were fired upon by a party of thirty Indians, and both were killed upon the spot. Major Heard, with only twenty-seven men and these provisions, hastily withdrew to some small breastworks which had been thrown up years before by General Blackshear. He there defended himself against the Indians, while two men, Captain Strothers and John Bridges, were sent across Flint river to inform General Glasscock of the situation. General Glasscock hurried out reinforcements to Major Heard, and the Indians were successfully repelled and the twenty-seven men with provisions proceeded in safety to Fort Early, where Jackson's famished army anxiously awaited them.

The peaceful settlers about Cedar Creek do not realize, perhaps, in their outings along the stream, that they tread upon historic ground—yea, hallowed ground, made so by the blood of two gallant heroes of Georgia's pioneer days—Captain Leight and Private Samuel Loftis.

Ebenezer.

One of the most interesting landmarks of Crisp County is quaint old Ebenezer Church, which is located on the Blackshear Road, six miles southwest of Cordele and one and a half miles from Raines.

This church was build in 1854, before Crisp County was created, and was located in what was then the 10th district of Dooly County. It is built in the shape of an octagon and

the uniqueness of its construction attracts widespread attention. The plans were drawn by William Slade, and the fact that it has needed only one recovering indicates the quality of the material used. It was situated in a grove of small pines which have, as the years elapsed, grown to be giant trees.

Rev. R. M. Bowen was the first pastor of this church, which is Baptist in denomination, and he served untiringly for more than twenty years.

The Williamses, the Jameses, the Slades, the McKinneys, and the Raineses were among the pioneer families who made up the settlement about this historic church.

Arabi.

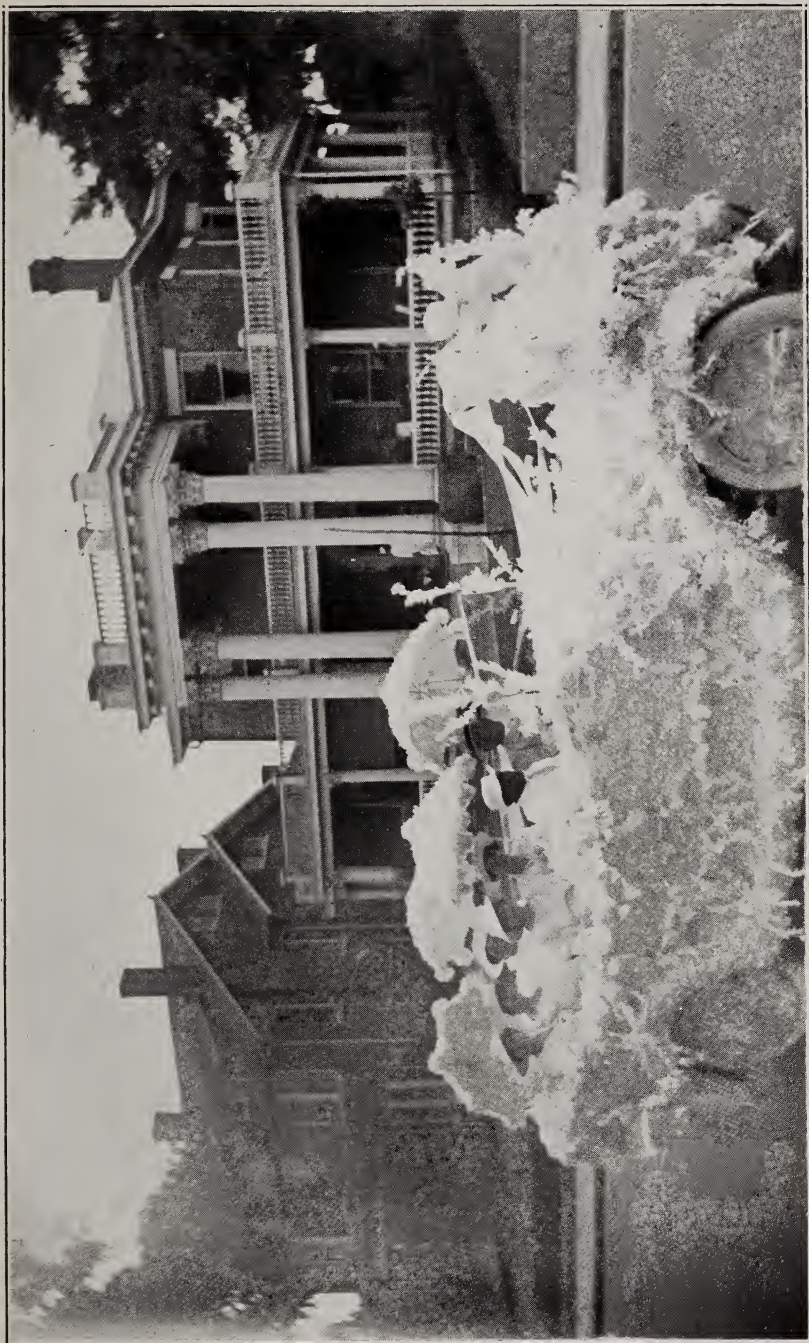
In 1882, along the star mail route between Montezuma and Tifton, lived a number of families owning adjoining farm lands, who were thrifty in their home industries. Among these were Mr. Pitts, grandfather of Mr. John Pitts of Cordele; Mr. Bedgood; Mr. Royal, and others. Little thought did they give to the formation of a town, till they heard the toot of the whistle and the approach of the first G. S. & F. R. R. train, which invaded their premises in 1888. They immediately began to cast about for a name by which their R. R. station should be called. After much surmise the name of "Arabi" was decided upon, and Arabi it should be. So in 1891 this little town was incorporated. Its growth has continued steadily; and now it boasts a population of more than five hundred; with its bank, supply house, churches, numerous stores; and the graded school of one hundred pupils, employ-three teachers, with music added to its curriculum. Arabi is now the largest town next to Cordele, in Crisp County. It is located nine miles south of Cordele, in the center of a rich and prosperous agricultural district. Through its warehouses about thirty-five hundred bales of cotton are handled annually.

Hatley.

Hatley, a settlement of about seventy-five people, is situated in the southeastern part of Crisp County. The village was named by the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Rail-



Court House.



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Heard.

way; but the postoffice is Malone, named after W. H. Malone, postmaster, in order not to cause confusion of mail with that of Hadley, Ga. Has not been incorporated. Was surveyed by R. A. Murray April 23, 1906. It boasts of its school, a church (in which two sermons are preached monthly, one by a Baptist and one by a Methodist preacher), two stores and a few residences.

Haw Pond.

Haw Pond, a pond on Deep creek, in the 13th district and owned with the surrounding land by Mr. John Pate, derived its name from the haw bushes growing along its banks. A small school house is erected here, and several residences are scattered in the neighborhood of the pond. Haw Pond is a bit unusual, in that in a certain time in the spring the water slowly begins to run out and people come for miles with wagons and supply themselves with the fish which are left stranded here.

Adkins.

Adkins settlement was named for William Adkins (a son of Joseph Adkins) who moved from Washington County, Georgia, to Dooly County prior to 1842. It is located in the northwestern part of the 10th Land District of Crisp County, Georgia (which was the 10th Land District of Dooly County until Aug. 28th, 1905, at which time Crisp County was created.) Wm. Adkins married Miss Elizabeth Hightower, a daughter of Echols Hightower, who came to Dooly County from Laurens County. There were eleven children of Wm. Adkins, nine of them living to be grown. There are three of the sons still living in the Adkins settlement, W. A., J. A., and J. B. Adkins, and one son, S. J. Adkins, lives at Lilly in Dooly County.

Among the other early settlers of this community were the Deckers, Farrells, Hatfields, Clements, Parkers, Burtons, Mercers, Hightowers, Cross, Belote, and Bullocks; among the latter settlers were the Whitsetts, Rays, Lowes, Colliers, Smiths, Tharpes, and Liggins. Later Dr. Vincent and Dr. Marshall,

the latter now living in Cordele, moved into this section. Then grew up in this community to distinction and prominence such men as James Ray, Thos. J. Ray, Theo. Butler, Joel Mercer and the Adkins boys, Joe and Thomas.

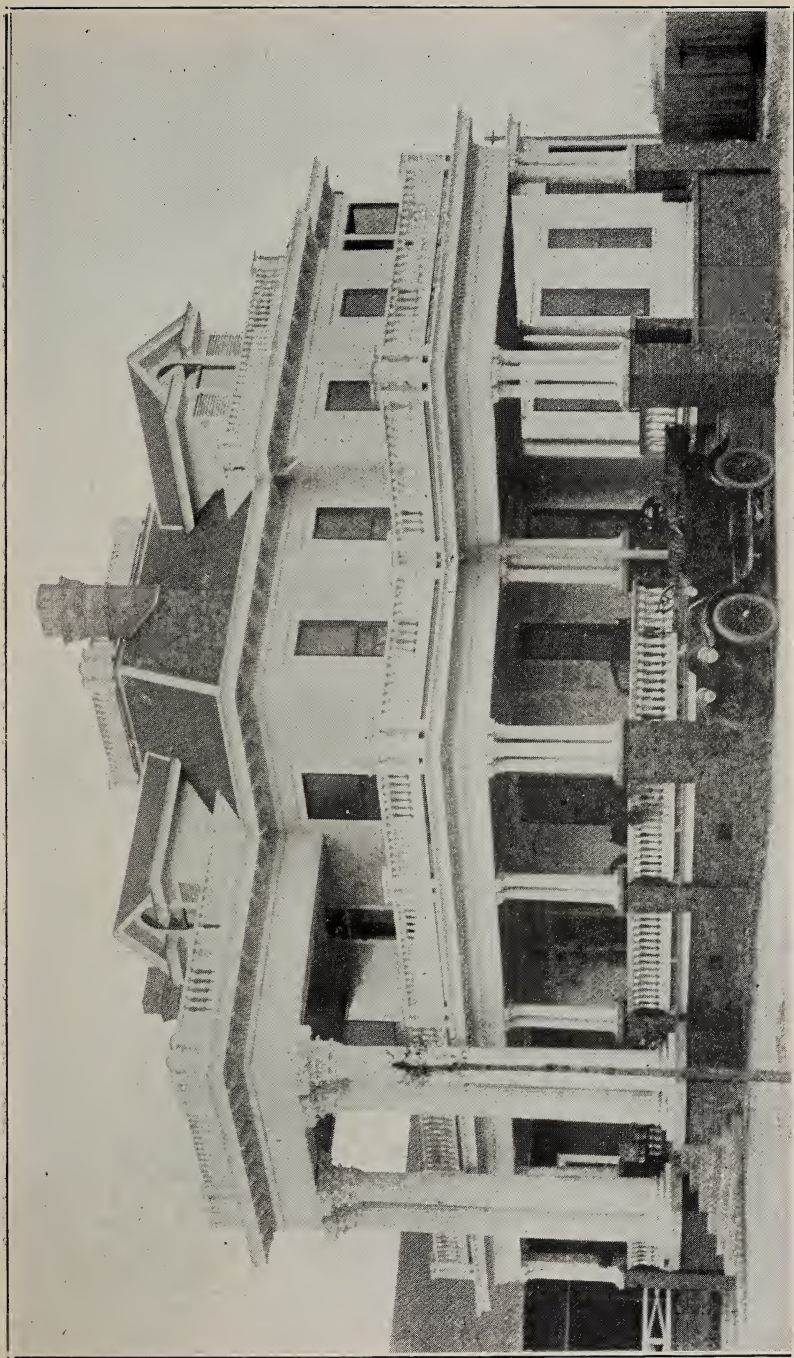
Among the prominent men living in this community now are L. M. Bolin, J. G. Gilbert, J. T. Smith, J. W. Easom, J. Walter Easom, C. B. Easom, D. H. Hall, W. W. Lane, W. A. Adkins, J. B. Adkins, J. A. Adkins, L. H. Adkins and S. B. Adkins.

The nearest church was the old Bethel Baptist church which was formerly situated on the South side of Gum Creek and on the East side of the public road that now leads from Cordele to Vienna. This church was very recently moved into the Adkins community and is now located on lot of land No. 110 in the 10th Land District of Crisp County on the South side of the public road leading from Coney to Vienna. The first preacher that these people had was Rev. A. J. Cheves.

The first school in this community was taught in 1865 by Miss Nannie Adkins, the daughter of Wm. Adkins. Prof. Thompson taught there in 1869, and the next year he was succeeded by Prof. J. J. Willis.

In 1880 Mrs. N. W. Collier, the wife of I. I. Collier, (a South Carolinian by birth) at her own expense built a school-house and taught here for several years. It was said of this good and pious woman that the pupils had such high regard for her that it was never necessary for her to use the switch. As the school building was located near the county line, it was thought best to move it when Crisp County was formed; so in the year 1906 it was moved to its present site on the Cordele and Drayton public road and placed on land donated by J. B. Adkins from a part of the original Wm. Adkins' estate. This is now considered one of the best and most regularly and constantly patronized schools in Crisp County. There are no great number of pupils, but all children of school age are required to attend regularly.

There is no railroad running through the Adkins settlement. The nearest station is Coney, four miles distant, situated on the Seaboard Air Line Ry. Vienna, the county seat



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Churchwell.

of Dooly, is about seven miles from Adkins, and Cordele about eight miles.

The farm lands in this section are as fine as in any part of Crisp County, and produce in great abundance all the crops and fruits that can be grown in South Georgia. The people are intelligent, thrifty and industrious and a credit to the entire county.

Penia.

Penia is a little village of 100 inhabitants (originally called "PINIA," relating to the many pine trees there) in the extreme eastern portion of Crisp County, five miles due East of Cordele and on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, running from Montgomery to Savannah.

In this vicinity, which was a part of Dooly County in the early eighties, some of the first and prominent settlers were J. H. Dorough, F. K. Wright, W. H. Wright and T. A. Musselwhite.

The latter is now living, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years, and remembers when a lad of eight, attending his first school, Mr. Whitney, the teacher, was killed by Indians who at that time lived in this part of Georgia.

Several of the old homesteads built by early settlers more than seventy ago, are now standing, although not built of stone, but of Georgia pine and hard wood.

The first and only church of Penia was erected principally through the efforts of Mr. Warren Musselwhite. The Rev. Mr. Bullington, a Baptist minister, was chosen as pastor.

In the year 1887, the A. P. & L. Railroad was laid from Lumpkin, Ga., to Abbeville, Ga., and Penia was one of the many small stations on this road.

The same year B. P. O'Neal, of Cordele, put large lumber mills here; a Post Office was established; a school; a store or two; and many new families enlivened the hitherto quiet life of this little village.

In 1891, a foreign element was introduced here.

Two brothers, A. and D. J. Heibert, with families, came

from Russia, near the shores of the Black Sea to U. S., stopping only a short while in Minnesota, then came on to Georgia. Other relatives and friends have followed in the footsteps of these two brothers, having heard of the splendid opportunities for farming, dairying, etc., in South Georgia; and, today, these people make fully half the inhabitants of Penia.

Listonia.

Two miles east of Penia on the S. A. L. R. R. and seven miles from Cordele is another colony of settlers at Listonia, from the states of Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Kansas, North Dakota.

There are about thirty in this colony.

Pateville.

This settlement, which is in the 14th district of Crisp County, only four miles from the County line and three miles from Arabi, was made in 1876, by J. S. Pate, a native of old Dooly County and who now resides in Cordele.

Pateville is not on any railroad, but at the time of settlement was on what was known in those days as a "Star Postal Route." This route ran from Tifton via Sycamore, Arabi, and Pateville to Gum Creek, the latter place being now known as "Coney."

Mail for this route was brought to Tifton by what was at that time called the "B. & W." railroad, running from Brunswick to Albany.

This was the only railroad within thirty miles of Pateville until the year 1887, when the G. S. & F. was built. This passed only three miles east of Pateville.

A school was established and taught by Mr. Pate the same year in which his home was built at Pateville, and this school has always been quite a success. For several years it had boarding pupils, and today it is a public school employing three teachers.

Before the Civil war, two churches were founded in this vicinity and still stand a living monument to the religious life



"The Oaks"—Residence of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Palmer.



Methodist Church.

of these people, Zion Hope, a Methodist Church, and Antioch, a Baptist church.

For a number of years Pateville had a large mercantile business, saw-mill, grist mill, ginnery, etc.

In latter years these things have been moved from the old country home settlement to nearby railroad towns.

And even the old Star Postal Route has given way to a real railroad postoffice, and so today, the school, two churches and large well improved plantations of J. S. Pate constitute Pateville.

Wenona.

Wenona is a small town in the central part of Crisp County, located in the Cordele district. It is on the G. S. & F. Ry., and is surrounded by splendid farm lands. There is a good school and Baptist and Methodist churches in the vicinity.

Coney.

Coney is a station in the 10th district, on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in the western part of the county. The place was named for Judge S. W. Coney, ordinary of Crisp County, from the creation of the county until his death, Jan. 19th, 1916. There is a school and a church at Coney.

Bridges school is located twelve miles southwest of Cordele, in a community of families by the name of Bridges. It is a three-room building, with three teachers and ninety pupils enrolled.

Bay springs school is located twelve miles southeast of Cordele. Both school and the church are named from the springs located among the bay trees. The present Bay Springs school house, however, has been moved a mile, and is now located at the intersection of the Cordele, Irwinville, Arabi and Hatley public roads. It has three teachers, with 125 pupils enrolled.

Mt. Carmel, a church and school in the 13th district, situated southeast of Cordele on Cordele and Irwinville road.

Midway, four miles northeast of Cordele.

Sharon, five miles northeast of Cordele on Blackshear road.

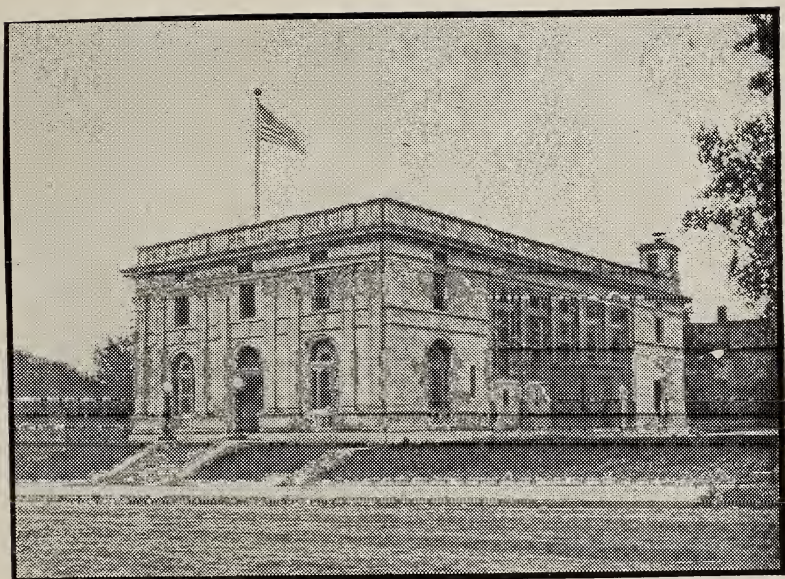
DOOLY COUNTY AND VIENNA IN RELATION TO CRISP COUNTY.

Dooly County was created by Legislative Acts, May 15th, 1821, from lands acquired from the Creeks, under the first treaty of Indian Spring in the same year. It was named for Col. John Dooly, of the Revolution. When organized, Dooly included Crisp, and parts of Lee and Worth, and extended from "Travelers Rest," near Montezuma to Albany, and from the Flint River to the Ocmulgee.

Vienna was first settled in 1814, as a relay station on the old stage coach line between Macon and Albany, or Pindartown, as the terminus on the east side of Flint River was then called. What is now Vienna, was first called Brownville, from a predominance of the family of that name, although this name was not official.

Dr. C. T. Stovall has letters in his possession dated 1831 to 1833 from Berrien, stating that the population was 33 souls all told, and "mostly Browns." The original county seat was a little town on the Flint River called Berrien, the name having been changed in 1833 to Drayton. But this site failed to give satisfaction. On December 23, 1839, an act was approved appointing William Smith, David Scarboro, Joel Dorsey, James Oliver, Thomas Cobb, and John Crumpler, to select a new site for public buildings. At the same time, a provision was made to compensate the owners of the property in Drayton.

In the late forties, the county seat was changed to Vienna; and on February 18th, 1854, the new county seat was incorporated as a town with the following commissioners: Chas. H. Everett, Seth Kellam, Lemuel M. Lasseter, John Brown, and Stephen B. Stovall. This Government lasted but a year or two, when a Mayor and Board of Aldermen were elected. The first members were Dr. Joseph Forbes, Dr. S. B. Stovall, H. G. Lamar, W. R. Mims, and others.



Postoffice.

The first Court House built in Vienna, was of rough hewn logs and was located on the north side of the Public Square. The second was built in the center of the Park, where it was burned in 1847 with all of its legal records. This was replaced by a wooden structure and remained until 1891 when this building was moved and converted into a hotel, and a modern brick structure was placed on the west side of the Public Square.

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Among the oldest settlers were, Brown, Dawson, Monger, Bothwell, Meriwether, Key, Petee, Sheffield, Bottom, Lasseter, Adams, Davies, Britt, Rogers, and McInvale.

Vienna is situated in about the central part of the County, and is a flourishing town with a population well beyond 2,000 and increasing yearly. She is surrounded by a rich farming belt, the chief products of which are cotton, corn, wheat, oats, hay, potatoes, etc.

There are two Railroads running through Vienna: Georgia, Southern & Florida, and Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic. These Railroads not only invite travel, but they render fine freight rates. The largest Manufacturing Concern is the Empire Cotton Oil Co. There are four flourishing Banks: Bank of Vienna, Dooly Saving Bank, J. P. Heard & Sons, and First National. The city has a fine retail trade and is well supplied with substantial mercantile concerns, and those industrial and business branches which go to make up a progressive city.

One of the principal factors in the growth and development of Vienna is its fine school facilities. There has just been completed a splendid building, devoted to the white school, costing about \$30,000.00. The negro school is also in a flourishing condition. There are three white churches—Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal—each with a large membership. Negroes have Methodist and Baptist churches. Vienna is a dry town, and has been for twenty years.

Vienna has strong lodges of Masons, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen, and Odd Fellows. There are many splendid homes, which have a happy blending of all that is noble and beautiful in architecture. These houses have great columns, wide halls, and broad verandas, which express to us the solid-

ity of character and open hearted hospitality of her people. The people of Vienna are refined, cultured, patriotic. There is an unusual amount of wealth in Vienna, and a number of young men and women attend College each year.

Trouble With Indians Along the Blackshear Trail in 1817-1818.

The atrocities committed so frequently upon women and children by the Seminole Indians in the southern section of the State, so stirred the whole nation in the year 1817 that war was declared against the Seminoles. These Indians lived in Florida and would invade Georgia territory, steal, pillage and murder the white settlers. At this time Florida was under the dominion of Spain, and since the landing of Oglethorpe these Indians had entertained great animosity against the people of Georgia.

The Seminoles had been reinforced by a band of seceded Indians from the Creeks of Georgia, and known as "Red Sticks," who would not recognize the treaty made at Fort Jackson, in which the Creeks had ceded a large portion of their territory to the whites. These Red Sticks carried a great many run-away negroes from Georgia and South Carolina, who also joined the Seminole Indians in their frequent marauding expeditions against the southern frontier of Georgia.

On March 30th, 1817, Governor David B. Mitchell of Georgia wrote to Hon. John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, the following communication: "By yesterday's mail I received a letter from Mr. Timothy Barnad, who resides on Flint River in the Indian territory, in which he observes: 'I have been informed two days past, from below where the Red Stick class reside that a party has been down near St. Mary's and murdered a woman and two children and brought off some horses. The Red Sticks have commenced their war dances again, which is proof that they mean to commence hostilities. Our forts, Crawford and Gaines, have been evacuated, and this has encouraged the Red Sticks, who believe that our troops were afraid to continue.'"

This communication caused the Secretary of War to order



Baptist Church.

General Jackson from Nashville with two regiments of soldiers to join General Gaines, who was already in South Georgia with his brigade, and prevent further hostilities.

On January 20th, 1818, General Jackson wrote to the Secretary of War: "The troops I have with me joined with the Georgia troops on the southern frontier will enable me to inflict speedy and merited chastisements on the deluded Seminoles."

The point then that the troops were directed to march to was situated at the junction of the Flint and the Chattahoochee Rivers. All of the territory between Hartford, now Hawkinsville, and Fort Scott was entirely roadless, with nothing but Indian trails, except through this section the trail had been made by General Blackshear during the war of 1812 was still intact. General Jackson then commenced his march from Fort Hawkins, now Macon, to Hartford, now Hawkinsville, and from thence to Fort Early in Dooly County, and passed directly over the spot where the City of Cordele now stands.

General Jackson was guided by a friendly Chehaw Indian through where Cordele now stands and along the whole route from Fort Hartsford to Fort Early many thrilling acts of bravery were performed by the Indians and General Jackson's men.

Near the residence of Mr. J. L. Wheeler a battle was fought between General Jackson's men and the Indians. Three United States soldiers were killed and were buried on the Blackshear trail about a half a mile from the residence of Mr. Wheeler. This battle was known as the battle of Skin Cypress Pond. Several Indians were also killed in this battle. These three graves have been lost and no stone marks their last resting place, and the land is now being cultivated where these soldiers were buried.

Fort Early was erected under General Early's administration by General Blackshear in 1812, and afterwards used by General Cain's army and General Jackson's army in defense against the Seminole Indians.

It was on January 2d, 1818, when Major F. E. Heard was ordered by General Glascock to meet General Leigh, who was proceeding from Hartford with packs of provisions for the

army. At Cedar Creek a halt was made; there was great difficulty in crossing the stream. Captain Leigh and a private of Captain Avery's company, by the name of Samuel Loftis, started across the stream. Major Heard at that time attempted to dissuade these two men from crossing because the growth was so thick on the other side of the stream that it seemed an opportune place and time for an attack by the Indians from ambush. Major Heard insisted that it would be too dangerous for these two brave soldiers to cross, but they were insistent and were allowed to proceed, but just as they got across they were fired upon by a party of 30 Indians and both shot dead on the spot. Major Heard had only 27 men and with these carrying the provisions, he then proceeded to some small breast works near by, that had been thrown up several years previous by General Blackshear, and in this way defended himself from the Indian attacks. Mr. John Bridges and Captain Snother were sent across the river to inform General Glascock, who sent reinforcements; and these 27 men with all the provisions proceeded on the way.

Up until a few years ago the Smoke family had in their possession a wooden peg from the old fort, on which General Jackson, it is said, hung his hat during his stay at Fort Early.

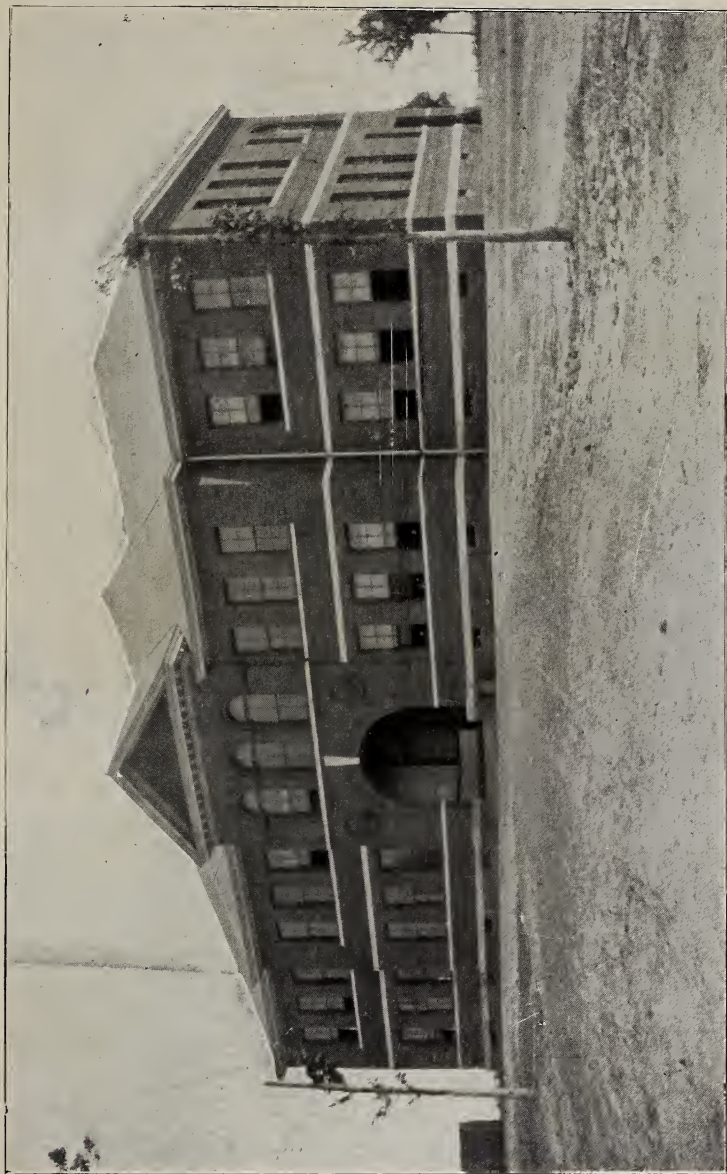
Drayton, Dooly County, Georgia.

Drayton is situated East of Flint River, South of Pennahatchee Creek. It is one of the oldest settlements in Dooly county and was once a flourishing village, but is now a town in name only.

Only a few families reside there now.

There are two churches in Drayton today in fairly good condition. Both are in use at present and have been for more than fifty years.

Several interesting old homesteads stand there today. Many have been destroyed by fire, or torn away and moved to other towns. An interesting old home is a double pen log house that has stood for more than seventy-five years, at present occupied by the owner, a very aged woman. This old home for years was the Drayton Inn, when Indians were living across Flint River.




School Building.

At one time, a small town called Danville, West of Flint River from Drayton, and the people of Drayton, refused all social affiliation, and great bitterness existed between the two towns, one was Whig and the other Democrat.

For a number of years Drayton was the home of Dooly's Representative and Senator. In 1837 Drayton was the Capital of Dooly. The town of Berrien was the Capital up to 1835, but political friends of Col. Drayton from South Carolina (for whom Drayton was named) at variance with Mr. Berrien, changed the Capital to Drayton. It was, however, moved back to Berrien, which is now the town of Vienna.



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